

Descriptions of new Species of Australian Cctoniidae: by
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Hemipharis torrida, n. sp.

♀. Castanea, fere opaca, capite thoraceque subtilissime punctatis, clypeo profunde emarginato, marginibus elevatis, tibiis intermediis et posticis muticis. Long. 14 lin., lat. 8 lin.

Castaneous, sub-opaque, owing to its surface being very densely covered with minute punctures visible only under a lens.

Head finely and remotely punctured, clypeus deeply emarginate in front, the margins elevated.

Thorax with the posterior lobe produced and semi-circularly emarginate above the scutellum, very faintly and remotely punctured.

Scutellum faintly punctate at the base.

Elytra finely and remotely punctured, the punctures very faint at the base, but distinct and arranged in rows on the apical two thirds, the sutural row and the one nearest the margin most distinct, apex strigose, the suture depressed behind the scutellum, but elevated posteriorly and terminating in an acute point at the apex.

Pygidium acuminate, finely transversely strigose.

Ablomen beneath remotely punctured at the sides, smooth in the centre; mesosternal process long, flat; *femora* and intermediate and posterior *tibiae* with a fringe of short black hairs on their inner margin, anterior *tibiae* armed externally with two very acute teeth, the others simple.

N. W. Australia (Nicol Bay). Coll. Sharp, Higgins.

Closely allied to *H. castanea*, O. Jans., but differs in its broader and more convex form, the finer and sparser punctuation of its head and thorax, its unarmed intermediate and posterior *tibiae*, and in the absence on the penultimate abdominal segment of the peculiar punctuation which characterises the female of that species. Its colour, form, more acutely margined clypeus, the broad emargination of the posterior lobe of its thorax and sparse punctuation will serve to distinguish it from *H. atripennis*, Macl.

H. castanea and *atripennis*, when examined under a lens, present a similar minute punctuation, but while in *H. torrida* this punctuation is sufficiently dense to impart a dull appearance to the surface, in *H. castanea* it is coarser and less dense,—hence the insect is slightly shining, and in *H. atripennis* it is so exceedingly minute and sparse as not in the least to subdue its polish.

Diaphonia Digglei, n. sp. Plate VII., fig. 1.

♀. Breviter ovata, nigra, thorace castaneo, tenuiter nigro marginato, elytris nitidis, caeruleo tinctis, clypeo subquadrato, antice late emarginato, capite thoraceque dupliciter punctatis, fere opacis, scutello magno, acuminato, nitido, elytris grosse profundeque subseriatim punctatis, nitidis. Long. 16 lin., lat. 9 lin.

Broadly ovate, black, elytra with a blue tint especially conspicuous in the punctures, thorax castaneous, narrowly margined with black.

Head nearly opaque, with numerous deep punctures, the interstices very thickly and minutely punctured, clypeus subquadrate, shallowly emarginate in front, rounded at the sides.

Thorax somewhat thickly strewn with large deep punctures, the interstices very densely and minutely punctured, causing the surface to appear almost opaque, posterior margin trisinate.

Scutellum very shining, large, triangular, its apex acuminate, faintly punctured, with a few large irregularly disposed punctures.

Elytra shining, with the suture depressed, covered with very large, deep, confluent punctures, disposed in irregular rows on the disc, sutural interstice thickly and minutely punctate, with a few large punctures very sparingly distributed on the basal two thirds, but becoming gradually denser towards the apex, humeral callus moderately developed, nearly smooth.

Pygidium transversely strigose, reddish-brown.

Beneath shining, sparsely punctate at the sides, minutely and thickly punctate in the centre, with a few large irregularly disposed punctures; anterior portions with long black hairs; an ill defined spot near the anterior angle of

the prothorax and the sides of the metathorax broadly reddish brown; mesosternal process not dilated at apex.

Legs punctured and pilose, tibiae and tarsi pitchy; anterior and intermediate tibiae with two acute teeth on their outer edge, posterior tibiae acutely unidentate externally, the tooth situate at about one third from the apex.

Queensland (Maranoa district). Coll. Higgins.

This fine insect appears to be most nearly allied to, although abundantly and conspicuously distinct from, *D. dispar* ♀, Newman (*Penelope*, Newm.).

The specimen described is the sole exponent of the species which I have yet seen, and has been handed to me by Mr. Higgins for description, with the request that I should dedicate it to the gentleman by whom it was presented to him, and to whose zeal our cabinets were originally indebted for numerous novelties indigenous to Queensland, a request which it therefore affords me much pleasure to fulfil.

Diaphonia lacunosa, n. sp. Plate VII., fig. 3.

♀. Ovata, convexa, nigra, nitida, capite punctato, clypeo lato, rotundato, apice emarginato, thorace grosse crebreque punctato, postice lobato, scutello parce punctato, elytris lacunosis, cyaneo tinctis. Long. 10 lin., lat. 6 lin.

Black, shining, elytra blue-black, very shining.

Head thickly punctured, clypeus (fig. 3a) broad, rounded at the sides, emarginate in front, lateral margins elevated.

Thorax coarsely and thickly punctured, the posterior margin produced and slightly emarginate above the scutellum, anterior margin slightly elevated, smooth.

Scutellum depressed, with a few large irregularly disposed elongate punctures.

Elytra depressed in the region of the scutellum, thickly covered with large somewhat confluent foveae, the interstices here and there assuming irregular longitudinal ridges, a distinct sutural stria, the sutural interstice with scattered oblong punctures.

Pygidium transversely strigose.

Beneath shining, remotely punctured, and sparsely clothed with fulvous pubescence, mesosternal process with a few scattered punctures, short, flat, apex not dilated.

Legs punctured and pubescent, anterior and intermediate tibiae armed externally with two stout teeth, posterior tibiae with a single acute tooth in the centre, apex strongly dilated.

Western Australia. Coll. Janson.

Most nearly allied to *D. metallescens*, White, from which it differs in its more robust and convex form, its broad clypeus, the coarse sculpture of its elytra and in its flat and undilated mesosternal process.

Figure 6 represents the head of *D. metallescens*.

Diaphonia maura, n. sp. Plate VII., fig. 7.

♂. Nigra, nitida, capite sparse punctato, clypeo quadrato, apice vix emarginato, crebre punctato, elytris grosse crebreque punctatis, tibiis brevis extus unidentatis. Long. $6\frac{1}{2}$ lin., lat. 4 lin.

Black, shining, underside and femora sparsely clothed with whitish pubescence.

Head with a few punctures on each side at the base, clypeus quadrate, slightly emarginate in front, the margins slightly elevated, finely and closely punctured.

Thorax somewhat coarsely punctate, the punctures closer at the sides, centre of disc smooth.

Scutellum convex, depressed at the sides, with a few lateral punctures.

Elytra coarsely punctured, two smooth slightly elevated ridges on the disc, the outer one somewhat obscure, the punctures very large and confluent at the sides, sparsely scattered on the disc and forming a stria next the suture, sutural interstice with a few scattered punctures, suture depressed, apical callus distinct.

Pygidium transversely strigose, its apex with oblong punctures.

Beneath coarsely punctured at the sides, apex of mesosternal process not dilated, abdomen with a deep longitudinal furrow.

Legs punctured, tibiae short, unidentate externally, the apical spines and the teeth on the anterior tibiae very acute.

Western Australia. Coll. Sharp.

Closely allied to *D. rugosa*, Schaum, but differs from it in being entirely black, slightly narrower, and in the quad-

rate form of its clypeus (fig. 7) which in *D. rugosa* (fig. 8) is dilated at the apex.

From *D. hirticeps*, Macl., (var. *nigrans*, Macl.) it may be at once distinguished by its very different form and sculpture.

Diaphonia obliquata, Westw. Plate VII., fig. 4. ♂.

♀. *Schizorhina obliquata*, Westw., Arcana Entom. I., p. 103, pl. 28, fig. 1 (1842).

♂. *Schizorhina ocellata*, Macl., Trans. Ent. Soc. N. S. Wales, I., p. 16 (1863).

This species must not be confounded with *D. eucnemis*, notwithstanding that Burmeister misled doubtless by the similarity of coloration, has, (Handb. III., p. 799), cited it as the female of that species, a very distinct form, of which both the sexes are now well known.
